

Bothley House
 Alford. July 13/86.

Mary is writing
 to you there
 I have been no
 more letters for
 you, and circulars
 you affected
 H. Stephens

Catherine

I hope this

may reach you on your birthday
 but I am not sure of hitting the
 day. I shall most likely be spending
 the day at Horner, and we shall
 be thinking of you. I leave here
 on Thursday, 16 to Horner, and
 leave on Saturday for home. I
 could not pass Peterboro without
 going over to see Mr Buck. I have
 settled with Mr English, the wife of
 Mr Phinson's shepherd who lives in
 a nice cottage close to the gates here,
 about taking her rooms for a

month in August. She has never
had anyone before, but I have
no doubt she can do what I need
and I shall sit the quilt and the
fresh air, and be one to rise
the garden and come in here
whenever we like. Mr Johnson
and Miss Abbott are all kind
and the life is so wholesome
and fresh. The weather has been
perfect since I came, the days
bright, and a little rain falling
on and then at night. It
will be just the thing for wool to
be with me at the cottage.

We went yesterday to see the old
woman who is to teach me
spinning. She says she has not

done it for twenty years, but it
will all come back to her. She
brought down some bundles
of flax ready for spinning, and
I bought them. She had had them
carefully laid by all that time.
I shall begin by spinning some
for a towel, and then go on to
finer work. Most of the middle
aged people here have spun in
their youth. The steel was sent
off from London last Friday,
so we should certainly have it
today. I did not tell you that
one day at Medovern, I tried
on Mary's dresses, and found
that one of them, made in Hull,

fitted me exactly and was of a
much better cut than anything
I could get at home. So as I wanted
a good deep for afternoon calls he
re note to the shop in Mill for
patterns of stuff, and Mary sent
the body of her deep as a model.
The deep was to be sent here and I
found it when I arrived. It is
black summer serge 1/6 a yard
with a front panel of striped velvet
collar, cuffs and waistcoat of the
same. Without any pinching or
padding it makes the figure look
quite a different thing. You must
try it on when you come back. I
never had one so comfortable
and Mrs Malvern can make
from the pattern now. The price
was £ 3.10, and it is worth the money.